

Testimony of Michael O'Connor before the Energy and Technology Committee
On proposed *House Bill 6249 An Act Establishing a Moratorium on the Siting of Wind
Projects Until the Adoption of Regulations*
Thursday, February 3, 2011

Senator Fonfara, Representative Nardello, Senator Witkos, Representative Hoydick and members of the Energy and Technology Committee, my name is Michael O'Connor and I am submitting this testimony in opposition to proposed House Bill 6249 An Act Establishing a Moratorium on the Siting of Wind Projects Until the Adoption of Regulations.

I am a Connecticut resident and have spent the past twelve years working on both the public and private sides of economic and real estate development here in Connecticut as well as nationally. I am a past member of the International Economic Developers Council (IEDC) and am currently a member of the Urban Land Institute (ULI), the International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC) and the United States Green Building Council (USGBC).

As we are all aware Connecticut has one of the highest energy costs of any state. Further, Connecticut is considered a high barrier to entry market within the development industry. The net effect is that we are a state that drives up the cost of development, making us less competitive in comparison to other states.

Through the work of the legislature, Connecticut has become a leader in promoting clean energy, to include wind. Wind energy is a cost effective measure for the State to meet the RPS mandates. Further, wind energy is proven to be a safe, environmentally friendly cost effective energy source.

A moratorium on the siting of wind projects and the suspension of action by the Siting Council on all pending applications such as those in Colebrook and Prospect, will have a negative effect by creating uncertainty in the marketplace. As you are well aware uncertainty in the marketplace in Connecticut will drive investments in alternative clean energy to other states thereby having an adverse impact on job creation and our economy.

Therefore, I respectfully rise in objection to HB 6249 and ask that you not give this bill favorable consideration.

I thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Michael O'Connor